

Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request 32

Date of Meeting: September 12, 2000

Date Submitted: September 7, 2000

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Michael C. Willett, Director of Public Works

Subject: Prioritization of Road Projects for the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)

Statement of Issue:

The Board of County Commissioners is required to establish a priority for the road projects submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation for the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) (Attachment #1).

Background:

The 2000 Florida Legislature and Governor created the County Incentive Program (Ch. 339.2817.FS) (Attachment #2). The CIGP allows the Florida Department of Transportation to make grants to counties for improvements to transportation facilities on the State Highway System. The grants may also be used for local transportation facilities that relieve congestion on the State Highway System. Local municipalities may apply for grants through their respective counties.

Analysis:

The CIGP created this year by the Florida Legislature and Governor provides new funds to the Florida Department of Transportation. The current funding of the program is \$100 million per year for the next three fiscal years distributed by statutory formula to each district. District III allocation is \$8.45 million for fiscal year 2000-2001. Each district will solicit, review and rank their eligible projects.

These new funds are established as grant funds for matching local contributions. The statute establishes the following percentages for matching funds:

- A. 60% of costs on projects of the Florida Interstate Highway System
40% Local match
- B. 50% of costs on other State Highway System Projects
50% Local match

- C. 35% of costs for local projects that relieve congestion on the State Highway System
65% Local match

Each county in the district was notified by letter (Attachment #3) of the CIGP and was advised that the Department requested all candidate projects be submitted by August 4, 2000. From this list, district staff will select projects for inclusion in the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 work program. The short deadline was due to the funds being available on such short notice and a program beginning July 1, 2000. Future submittals will follow a more formal process beginning in March 2001.

Due to staff becoming aware of the program after the Board's July meetings, staff discussed and prepared a submittal of potential projects to the FDOT on August 4, 2000 (Attachment #4). The City of Tallahassee was a participant and requested the County submit projects on their behalf (Attachment #5).

In the August 4, 2000 letter to FDOT, staff stated that we had not prioritized the projects at this time but would follow-up after our August 28, 2000 MPO meeting and their review. FDOT has advised that this is a County program and prioritization by the County is acceptable. The FDOT does expect the prioritization to follow closely the MPO list of prioritized projects.

The following are the projects submitted:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
<i>Capital Circle Northwest - US 90 West (Tennessee Street) to I-10</i> R/W Phase	\$10,000,000
<i>Crawfordville Highway - Wakulla Springs Road to Four Points</i> R/W Phase	\$6,300,000
Construction Phase	\$9,000,000
<i>US 90 East - Dempsey Mayo to I-10</i> R/W Phase	\$6,300,000
Construction	\$15,000,000
<i>Capital Circle, S.E. - Apalachee Parkway to Park Avenue</i> Construction	\$9,000,000

<i>North Monroe Street - Corridor Management Study Implementation</i>	
Design	\$860,000

County and City staff did discuss two local projects as potential submittals. Within the County's CIP program, Tharpe Street (Capital Circle N.W. to Ocala Road) would provide relief to the state system. Within the City's CIP Program, Blairstone Road Northern Extension would provide relief to the State system. But after discussions, the two staff agreed to submit the five listed projects.

Staff submitted two projects (Crawfordville Highway and Capital Circle, S.E.) which are presently proposed for partial or full direct funding by local government. The two staffs saw this as a program that would reduce this direct funding by 50% for the local governments. Staff submitted the other three projects for they are top priority for the MPO.

Staff is requesting the Board's direction on prioritizing these five projects. At this time the Board should consider only these projects as they were the ones submitted by the August 4, 2000 deadline. Staff will be bringing future submittals to the Board in March of each year and at that time the Board will have the opportunity to modify the project list and their priority.

The Board should consider in their discussions the matching funds for the CIGP. Presently all County funds within the transportation programs (106-Constitutional Gas Tax, 107-Local Gas Tax, 108-Local Option Sales Tax) are allocated for projects. To provide matching funds, except for Crawfordville Highway, will require modification to the transportation 5-year CIP Program. The matching funds discussion may also be revisited should one of the projects be selected by District III for CIGP.

Staff's proposed prioritized list of the five projects to consider would be:

1. Crawfordville Highway - Reduces Direct Funding
2. Capital Circle, S.E. - Reduces Direct Funding
3. Capital Circle, N.W. - MPO Priority
4. U.S. 90 East - MPO Priority
5. North Monroe Street - Corridor Management

Options:

1. Prioritize the five submitted projects as presented by staff.
2. Modify the prioritized list.
3. Do not prioritize the projects and resubmit in March 2001.

4. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1.

Attachments:

1. Letter to Board of County Commissioners requesting priority of candidate projects dated August 25, 2000
2. Fact Sheet for County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)
3. Letter to Chairperson Sauls requesting project submittals dated July 10, 2000
4. Letter to District III Secretary, H.E. Prescott, P.E. listing projects dated August 4, 2000
5. Letter to Don Lanham from John Davis, P.E. submitting City's request for participation in CIGP dated August 4, 2000